

He leaves behind his devoted wife Paula; three daughters, Lea Ann, Ellyn, and Kate; and four sons, Larry, Donald, Joel, and Richard. May his legacy of service and kind spirit serve as an inspiration to us all.●

REMEMBERING COLONEL JAMES A. SMITH, JR.

● Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the remarkable life of Retired Colonel James A. Smith, Jr., a 31 year veteran of the Illinois Army National Guard who passed away on May 11, 2022.

Colonel Smith started his career in 1977 as an enlisted soldier, commissioning in 1982 through the Illinois Army National Guard's Officer Candidate School. He served in various staff and leadership positions throughout his career in the Illinois National Guard.

In 2003, Colonel Smith was appointed as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel (G-1). In this role, he played an integral role in preparing Illinois Army National Guard units for deployment to Iraq and then Afghanistan. In 2008, before his retirement, he was appointed as the Illinois Army National Guard chief of staff before being appointed the Illinois Department of Military Affairs chief of staff that same year.

As the IDMA chief of staff, Colonel Smith supported multiple Illinois National Guard deployments, the Illinois National Guard's response to floods, hurricanes, and wildfires, the 2012 NATO Summit in Chicago, and most recently, the Illinois National Guard's COVID-19 response, as well as law enforcement support missions.

Colonel Smith was proud of being an infantry officer, a devout Catholic, and an unwavering Cardinals fan. He was a strong advocate for Lincoln's Challenge Academy and its cadets, the Illinois Military Family Relief Fund, the Illinois State Military Museum, the National Guard Association of Illinois, and, most of all, the soldiers and airmen of the Illinois National Guard and their families.

Colonel Jim Smith's voice will not be heard again in the Illinois National Guard's buildings or training areas, but his spirit will remain within this organization for many generations to come. He leaves behind his wife Nilsa and their son Sam. May his legacy of service and kind spirit serve as an inspiration to us all.●

TRIBUTE TO SCOTT ROBINSON

● Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, today, I want to recognize and offer my sincere congratulations to Scott Robinson, director of the Port of Muskogee, on his retirement after 31 years of service. I have had the pleasure of working with Scott for a number of years, and we have done a lot of good work together.

When I came to Congress, I set out with the notion to let the world know that Oklahoma is navigable, and with

Scott's help, we have been able to do that. He has been a long-time advocate for Oklahoma's inland waterways, serving on various waterways boards and commissions and testifying before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

Through his advocacy and leadership, Scott and I worked quickly to help the Port of Muskogee recover after the historic 2019 floods that decimated the Arkansas River Basin, including working to deliver millions of dollars to ensure the port could rebuild for the future. Under Scott's tenure, the port has grown tremendously as he oversaw the port's expansion of property that has allowed industries to invest over \$2 billion into the port's facilities and create more than 2,500 jobs. Because of Scott, the port is a true multimodal transportation hub for the region.

As port director, Scott never missed an opportunity to highlight the importance of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System—MKARNS—and its contribution to the long-term strength and security of the U.S. economy, including supporting thousands of jobs, and providing billions of dollars in sales impacts and transportation costs savings. His tireless work throughout the years has ensured that the Port of Muskogee and MKARNS system will continue to serve Oklahoma and our Nation for decades to come. Oklahoma and the entire Nation have benefited greatly from his leadership, and his legacy will not be soon forgotten.

Congratulations again, Scott, on your well-deserved retirement.●

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MINNESOTA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, today, I am proud to stand with my colleague, Senator SMITH, to recognize an organization that has meant so much to the people of Minnesota.

On June 4, 2022, the Minnesota YMCA Youth in Government Program celebrates its 75th anniversary. The Minnesota YMCA Youth in Government Program is a youth-led, nonpartisan, experiential learning program that develops and promotes lifelong, active, responsible citizenship in our youth. Annually, the program brings middle and high school students from across Minnesota to create a mock State government in the State capitol, complete with legislative branches for upper and lower classmen, a court, an executive branch, lobbyists, and a press corps.

The program has been developing tomorrow's leaders since 1946 and, since that time, has served over 54,000 middle school and high school students. Today, the Minnesota YMCA Youth in Government program stands as one of the largest and longest running Youth in Government programs in the Nation.

Through Youth in Government, students learn to write bills, debate issues, argue court cases, elect their

own leaders, and actively participate in an authentic model of real-life legislative, executive, and judicial processes and structures. Youth in Government students learn about the importance of accountability, responsibility, and the value of getting involved in civic affairs while developing self-confidence and learning their voices matter and need to be heard within the State's—and Nation's—policy and decision-making process.

This vital program creates an environment for students to have meaningful and respectful conversations where students can learn from each other about today's issues while fully acknowledging that each student brings a different life experience to the table, a skill that they will carry with them for the rest of their lives. It is through this experience that Youth in Government teaches young people that they have an important and immediate stake in the decisions that shape the future of not only the State of Minnesota, but of their Nation and the world.

The program motto for Minnesota Youth in Government is "Democracy must be learned by each generation," which is more important today than ever.

I ask that my colleagues join Ms. SMITH and myself in honoring the Minnesota YMCA Youth in Government Program.

50TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY OF REV. DR. CALVIN MCKINNEY

● Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize and congratulate my friend the Reverend Dr. Calvin McKinney on his 50th pastoral anniversary. Pastor McKinney has served as pastor of Calvary Baptist Church of North Jersey since 1972.

Pastor McKinney's ministry is guided by Teaching and Growing a Praying People of God, whether at home in New Jersey, across our Nation, or around the world. His ministry has taken him throughout Africa, Europe, Asia, Central America, and the Caribbean Islands. Of his many accomplishments, Pastor McKinney's most memorable preaching opportunity was during the centennial session of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc., in Birmingham, AL, in 1980.

In September 2009, Pastor McKinney was elected general secretary of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc. He served as the youngest moderator in the history of the North Jersey District Missionary Baptist Association from 1986 to 1990, and served from 1996 through 2000 in an unprecedented tenure as one of the youngest presidents in the history of the 300,000-member General Baptist Convention of New Jersey, Inc. He was named president emeritus in recognition of his exemplary leadership.

In 2003, under the visionary leadership of Pastor McKinney, Calvary started on a journey to build a \$10 million, 1,500-seat sanctuary along with